



Lone Star Dispatch

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**Winner of the 2020, 2021 & 2022 Col. Walter H. Taylor Award
Best Society Newsletter in the MOS&B**

COMMANDER'S CORNER

by Larry "Joe" Reynolds



Compatriots,

This is the time of year when our Conventions are behind us and we start looking forward to and planning for our next year, and what a lot we have to look forward to.

Both the Society and National Conventions were outstanding and ones to be remembered. At the National Convention in Counce, Tennessee, Texas' own, Johnnie Lee Holley, Jr. was elected as our Commander General, and he has named his staff, of which, our Texas members stand tall among them.

I have several goals that I wish to achieve during my last year of office, and they all involve growing our great Texas Society. A major goal is to attend meetings of all of our present Chapters. I'm hoping that the Major John Loudermilk and the Colonel W. H. Parsons Chapters both schedule meeting in the near future so that I can attend both.

Thanks to Lt. Commander Williamson and Compatriot Michael Gonzales, Temple is just about ready to charter a new Chapter, the Captain Andrew Jackson Nicholson Chapter 318, and I would like to charter at least two additional new Chapters by our next Society Convention.

At the Society Executive Committee meeting in October I will be asking for permission to start a "New Member Packet" that I wish to initiate in order to help with Recruiting and Retention

within the Society. Again, I ask ALL Chapters to have a representative to attend these meetings.

Last, but not least, we are already planning on the 2023 Texas Society Convention, which will be held on June 9th and 10th, 2023 at College Station, Texas. Let's all plan to attend!

*Deo Vindice,
Joe Reynolds
Society Commander*

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Colonel Michael William Gray

Captain Joseph West Harris

Company G, 20th Infantry Regiment Alabama

The Texas Chapter #5

Douglas Clifton Collings Jr.

1st Lieutenant Thomas Simpson Barnett

Company A 11th Texas Cavalry Regulars

The Texas Chapter #5

Gabriel Allen English

2nd Lieutenant William Jefferson Towns

Co. M, 1st Texas Infantry/2nd Texas Infantry

Col. Briscoe Gerard Baldwin Jr. Chapter #312

Darryl Southern English

2nd Lieutenant William Jefferson Towns

Co. M, 1st Texas Infantry/2nd Texas Infantry

Col. Briscoe Gerard Baldwin Jr. Chapter #312

Benjamin Crawford Sewell III

Captain Henderson Matthew Combs

Co. G, 13th Kentucky Cavalry/11th Kentucky

Mounted Infantry

Lawrence Sullivan Ross Chapter # 184

Juan Ramirez
Colonel Santos Benavides
33rd Texas Cavalry Regiment
Lawrence Sullivan Ross Chapter # 184

TEXAS HEROES

THOMAS HARRISON

1823 - 1891



Thomas Harrison was born in Jefferson County, Alabama, on May 1, 1823, but grew up in Monroe County, Mississippi. He moved to Texas in 1843 and studied law in Brazoria County. Later he returned to Mississippi from which he went to the Mexican war as a member of the 1st Mississippi Rifles. Living first in Houston after that war, he served a term in the Texas legislature from Harris County, and then settled permanently in Waco. Harrison was a captain of a volunteer militia company serving in West Texas.

Harrison entered the Confederate Army with his company in the 8th Texas Cavalry, better known as "Terry's Texas Rangers". He was promoted colonel just prior to the battle of Murfreesboro in Tennessee. His regiment served with Wheeler's command at Chickamauga and during the subsequent campaigns in Georgia and the Carolinas. He was appointed brigadier general the last months of the war to rank from January 14, 1865.

Returning to Waco after the war, Harrison was elected district judge and was a Democratic Presidential Elector in 1872. He died in Waco on July 14, 1898 and is buried there. Thomas was the younger brother of CSA Gen. James Edward Harrison.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Texas Society SEC Meeting

October 7 - 8, 2022
Hilton College Station & Conference Center
801 University Drive East, College Station, TX

National GEC Meeting

October 13 - 15, 2022
Big Springs Lodge by Best Western
1810 Southern View Drive, Neosho, MO 64850

2023 National Annual Convention

May 4 - 6, 2023
Doubletree by Hilton Hotel
2717 W. Fort Macon Rd, Atlantic Beach, NC 28512

Texas Society MOS&B Convention

June 9 - 10, 2023
Hilton College Station & Conference Center
801 University Drive East, College Station, TX

TEXAS SOCIETY
MILITARY ORDER OF THE STARS AND BARS
Lone Star Dispatch

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Lieutenant Commander's Comments

by George Ward Williamson



As the Lt. Commander of the Texas Society, I am enjoying meeting new people and getting new ideas as I travel and visit the different chapters. I'm learning that each chapter is unique and has a different personality. The main thing they all have in common is their dedication to our Southern Heritage and proud to represent the Officers Corps of the Confederacy.

During my most recent visit to the Bryan chapter, I was impressed that the Commander, Lee Lance, had written a canteen ceremony that was used to honor their namesake Colonel Briscoe Gerald Baldwin, Jr. Each member participated and read what Commander Lance had written. This all took place at the Bryan Cemetery at the grave of Colonel Baldwin.

The new Temple chapter 318 Lt. Colonel Andrew Jackson Nicholson will be holding their charter meeting and installing their new officers on October 1, 2022 in Temple, Texas. Commander Michael Gonzales has done an outstanding job of forming this new chapter.

I have four more chapters to visit and I'm looking forward to it.

God bless the South!

George W. Williamson
Lt. Commander



LONE STAR CHAPTER 137

The Lone Star Chapter 137, Dallas, Texas held it's first meeting since COVID on Tuesday August 9th, it was my pleasure to attend this meeting and present

past due Awards. With 11 in attendance, they are off to another good start.



Texas Society Commander Joe Reynolds presents Chapter Commander Nick Gilliam with the Certificate and Streamer to the 100% Chapter Retention Award. Commander Gilliam was also presented a Certificate of Appreciation from the 2022 Society Convention



RECOGNITION FOR MAINTAINING A VETERAN'S GRAVESITE "JACKSON MEDAL"

Adopt a Confederate officer's grave, commit to its care and you might wear the "Jackson Medal". This is not a commitment to be taken lightly, nor was it intended to be. If you accept this challenge, do so with two thoughts in mind: 1. It is a year-to-year commitment 2. Your efforts should be towards perfection Certificates and medals are awarded on a point basis. For more information see the [details here!](#)



LATEST TEXAS CHAPTER MEMBER IS ALSO A REAL GRANDSON

by Lee Roy Lance, Chap 312 Commander



(L) Benjamin Young Awbrey (1841-1903); PVT, Co D, 26 Texas Cav
(R) Tom Awbrey Foster (1944); CAPT US Army

On 13MAR2022, the latest member of the Colonel Briscoe Gerard Baldwin Jr Chapter 312, Bryan, TX was admitted to the National Society of the MOS&B. At that point in time, **TOM AWBREY FOSTER** became the newest member the Texas Society, but more eventful was the fact that he was a TRUE GRANDSON (#63)! At 78 years of age, you might wonder how this could be? Here's the rest of the story.

BENJAMIN YOUNG AWBREY was born 15JUN1841 in Perry County, Alabama. It is not known when he moved to Texas, but he enlisted at Centerville, Texas as a Private in Company D, 26th Texas Cavalry on 20SEP1861. In 1882, he married Martha Francis "Fannie" Mask at Brenham, Washington County, Texas and they had six children including Tom's mother, Mary Walker Awbrey, their youngest child. Sadly, Benjamin would never see nor hold his little girl because he would pass away 07OCT, just 33 days before her birth. He is buried in Harmony Church Cemetery just east of Navasota, Grimes Co, TX. Mary would marry Ferdinand F Foster in 1929 and go on to be a public-school teacher while raising two boys of her own, including Tom. Tom joined the MOS&B under his Great Grand Uncle 2LT Isaiah Martin Bookman, Co G, 4th Texas Infantry.



Like his grandfather, Tom would answer the call for service from his nation. He began his service in the late-60's flying fixed-wing U-21 aircraft (Beech King Air) with the 1st Aviation Brigade in Vietnam. He was RIF'd in 1973 at the rank of

Captain. Transferring to the Warrant Officer Corps as a member of the 6th ACCB Cavalry Regiment at Fort Hood, Tom flew the Army's Golden Knight's Parachute Team from 1977-1980. In 1981, he would cross-train as a UH-1 (Huey) helicopter pilot and would serve the rest of his career as a member of the Army Reserve's 273rd Medical Detachment at Montgomery County Airport, Conroe, TX. In 1991, CWO3 Foster would see combat once again during Desert Storm. Because of his ability to pilot both fixed and rotor wing aircraft, he would fly not only "Dust Off" (medical evacuation) helicopter missions but also transport missions with the unit during this final tour. He would retire shortly after the war. Tom is an active member of not only the MOS&B but also the local College Station SCV Camp. His daughter Jill Foster Myers is a member of a UDC Chapter in Houston, TX.



U-12 Golden Knights
Parachute Team



UH-1 "Huey" Med
Evac "Dust Off"

Anecdote about B Y Awbrey – An article in the Chicago Tribune dated February 24, 1887 entitled “GOV.

IRELAND TESTIFIES” relates the investigation into the murder of Dewees Bolton, a black man, that occurred in Washington County, Texas. It was reported that two Republicans had gone to Flewellyn’s store earlier on election day and advised black men “to arm themselves and shoot anyone who attempted to interfere with the ballot box.”

“Benjamin Y. Awbrey, a white farmer and presiding judge at the Graball polling-place, testified that there was no intimidation at the polls, but that about 11 o’clock p.m. the ballot-box was raided by masked men while the vote was being counted. As far as the count had progressed, Judge Kirk was eleven votes ahead of his Republican competitor. He attempted to prevent the capturing of the ballot-box, but pistols were placed against his face and he gave the box up.”

Witnesses to the shooting stated that they did not see any mask the dead man Bolton nor did they see the person who fired the shot. Much of the article discussed the plight of blacks in Washington County and how dangerous it was for them to openly espouse voting for a Democrat. A jury later found that Bolton was killed by Polk Hill and that eight black men were arrested as accessories to the murder. The identity of the person who raided the ballot box was never determined. In closing, “Judge Rector said the offering of a reward would stop the Republican party in the North from preaching against the South.”

place of Captain Charles S. DeMontel who was commissioned as Commander of the Confederate States Steamer and Privateer Texas by President Jefferson Davis in 1863, and who subsequently returned to Texas the following year and raised a company of cavalry under the command of Colonel John S. (RIP) Ford. Bigfoot Wallace was his lieutenant. Captain DeMontel is recognized as the founder of Bandera, Texas, and the co-founder of Castroville, Texas.



The gravesite of Captain DeMontel along with Chapter 184 flag in the background.



Sixth Brigade (Texas SCV Division) Honor Guard firing one of the three volleys in tribute to Captain DeMontel.

SUL ROSS CHAPTER 184

On Monday, June 30, 2022, Memorial Day, our Sul Ross Chapter conducted a Cemetery Dedication on private land owned by Susan and Elden Saathoff in Castroville, Texas. The cemetery is the final resting



Captain Bubba Cheek commanding the Honor Squad and featuring Compatriot Charles Thacker as one of the squad members.



Chapter Commander Raymond Reeves.

Chapter 184 August Awards Ceremony.

It was my pleasure to attend the Chapter Meeting/Awards Dinner of the Lawrence Sullivan Ross Chapter 184 on August 1st. There were some 37 members and guests present and besides presenting many awards, two new members were sworn into the MOS&B. Compatriots Benjamin Crawford Sewell, III and Juan Ramirez will make a welcome addition to our Society. I'm sure we'll all get to know these men better in the coming months.



Past Chapter Commander Sanford Reed is presented with the Lone Star Award by Chapter Commander Raymond Reeves as Society Commander Joe Reynolds looks on.

ARE WE INVITING PROSPECTIVE NEW MEMBERS?

Membership recruiting is important for any organization. All of the current members will one day be gone and no longer a part of our group. We must continually look for prospective members and be alert to invite them. Each of us can do that in our own way. What works for one person might not be the best for another person. The MOS&B is currently much more active than we were a number of years ago. We have more members than we have had in a long, long time. There are many reasons-one being that the attacks on our heritage and everything we admire about the efforts of our ancestors by certain groups and individuals has heightened the awareness of many of us that we need to stand up and stand together.

Some have asked for "good pointers" in drawing new members, as well as renewing the interest of our current inactive members, to our MOS&B Chapter meetings. No one answer or group of answers will fit each situation, but here are a few thoughts on the subject.

1. Always have informative and educational and interesting programs at each meeting if you can.
2. The most active groups have a lot of different activities planned. Members tend to get involved - what appeals to one person might not appeal to the next - try to have some variety in programs and activities.
3. Newsletters and/or other types of personal communications to each member is a must. Telephone contact, e-mail contact, a newsletter as mentioned above, or if that is impossible, just a post card - whatever you can do in your situation should be done to improve attendance.
4. Involvement of the Chapter Officers is required. If the Officers are active and constantly trying to improve the operations, attendance will go up.
5. Each of us - personally and individually - invite others to be our guests at a meeting with the hope that they will decide they would like to join with us. Who to invite??? Start with those in your own family circle and other relatives. Neighbors - longtime and newcomers to your community -are good prospects; friends from your Sunday School Class or Church; contacts in other organizations and clubs where you participate, such as a Lodge or a Veterans group; persons who are involved in a hobby.

It is a fact that the overwhelming majority of people who come to any organization attend because someone they know INVITED them! This is a simple but powerful way for you to advance the MOS&B. Reach out and invite others to join you at the next meeting. Through YOUR INVITATION, miracles can happen!



A BLAST FROM THE PAST

(from January 2006 Clarion Call)

Officer Corps of the Confederate States Army Robert W. Crook, Tyler, TX Councilor, MOS&B, ATM

Who made up the officer corps of the Confederate States Army? What were the qualities they were expected to have? To begin with, many Southern families - rich and poor alike - considered it desirable for at least one of their sons to have a background in things 'military.' It was the 'manly' thing to do to spend at least some years in a military-type environment. Many were graduates of West Point - considered the premier military school in the country - while others attended such Southern military academies as VMI, the Citadel, or their own state schools that offered cadet curriculums. Such courses led to discipline and order, instilled patriotism, and perhaps opened doors for future opportunities, both military as well as civilian.

In spite of Hollywood's version of what the Southern army consisted of, Confederate officers came from all walks of life, spanned all age groups, physical and intellectual makeup, and occupations. Some were saints - while a minority were, or became, scoundrels. Most were respected leaders in their communities - why not leaders on the battlefield? Ideally, they were men of impeccable honor, personal courage, unwavering in their devotion to duty, willing to go onto the deadliest part of the battlefield when leading their men. In material terms, they had much to lose if the South were defeated; very little to gain in her victory. Some of these men equipped, uniformed, and armed an entire company of volunteers at their own expense, rather than wait for their state to provide the much-needed funds. And, while it is true some of these officers obtained their rank through political connections and influence, or perhaps sought the headlines and acclaim of others, the vast majority was not cut from this cloth. Most Southerners at the time were proficient with rifle and pistol, were naturals with horses, inured to the hardships of their mostly agrarian surroundings, quick to defend the helpless and the weak, and just as quick to punish the bully in

their midst. No wonder then that these men - always outnumbered, out-equipped, and out-fed - considered themselves descendants of Cavaliers and Knights, and could whip at least ten Yankees to their one, and figure the odds fairly even in the fight.

Some, like Nathan Bedford Forrest, had barely learned to write, yet he proved to be one of the most effective combat leaders during the entire war. Men like Forrest may not have 'talked the talk' - but they sure knew the 'walk.' Others became officers by attrition through no fault of their own - all other senior officers had been killed, wounded and disabled, or captured. One of my own kinsmen from Mer Rouge, LA enlisted as a private at the age of 17 in Co. G of the 15th LA Infantry. Over 900 men would serve in this regiment during the course of the war. But, four years later, when he surrendered with Robert E. Lee's Army of Northern Virginia at Appomattox Court House, 2nd Lt. John Barlow Davenport was the ranking officer among those of the 15th who remained to the end - all 19 of them. The regimental flag these men served under now reposes in Confederate Memorial Hall in New Orleans.

It was the custom of the day, particularly with the Southern army, to elect officers. At first, selection of these men to positions of authority may have been no more than popularity contests. It soon became apparent, however, that the lives of entire companies and regiments depended on the decisions and actions of these men, and being 'popular' might also get soldiers killed if the wrong decisions were made. The best officers were the ones who looked after the welfare of their men first (in and out of battle), attended to their needs in every way possible, displayed courage when facing the enemy, earned the respect and devotion of their soldiers, and who would never lead them into a situation he was not willing to go himself. He was a leader by example - not by military fiat. The best line officers were the ones who assured them, "Follow me, men, and I will lead you!" not "Go, yonder and attack!"

Yet, it was because of this very style of leadership that the commissioned officer was more likely to become a casualty in battle than was the enlisted man. By virtue of the method in which opposing armies fought each other in that period, lieutenants, captains, and colonels were usually in FRONT of their men, not behind them. Enemy sharpshooters singled them out as 'trophies' and many paid with their lives the privilege of rank. Many general officers fell on the field of battle as well. One only has to hear the names of the Southern heroes that will forever resonate within our hearts and minds - Johnston, Stuart, Jackson, Polk, Morgan, AP. Hill, Barksdale Armistead, Tom Green, Pegram, Cleburne -not to mention the lesser known but not-forgotten heroes who wore the gray. In the battle of Franklin, 1N - sometimes referred to as the 'Pickett's Charge of the West' - over 60 Confederate brigade and regimental officers were killed, wounded, or captured - the largest number of senior officers in any battle during the entire war, and over 30 battle flags lost. Overall war statistics suggest that one out of every four general officers was KIA or mortally wounded. When the guns fell silent the survivors returned to a land desolated by the plowshares of war. For all practical purposes, the world they had known had been destroyed. Gone were the farms, the implements, animals, crops, the stores and storehouses, railroads, the banks, the colleges and universities. Many of their homes had been ransacked and torched by the Yankees - their families forced to live with a neighbor or another family member. Widows and orphans suffered the most - totally dependent on the welfare of friends and family for their next meal. There was no Marshall Plan to rebuild the devastated South. There were no relief or disaster agencies - no Food Banks or Red Cross - no Farm Bureau or housing assistance. Private soldiers were even more destitute with very little future to look forward to. No grand parades awaited their return or pensions to ease their financial burden. In the year following the war, the single largest item in the Mississippi state budget was to provide artificial limbs for its returning veterans. I'm fairly certain other states of the Confederacy had

similar needs with similar expenditures. These men, true to their character, dug deeper. Some recovered, but many spent the remainder of their lives in relative poverty, with barely a dollar in their pocket, caring for the men who had nobly and faithfully served under them or their widows and children who survived. Then, these men had to pay their proportionate share of pensions for those who had conquered them, while our own Southern men went without for almost 30 years. And, they were stripped of their citizenship - not allowed to vote, to hold office, or sit on a jury, until they had signed an 'oath of allegiance' to the federal government or made special application to the president for amnesty. Yes, they were heroes in peace no less than in war.

The Military Order of the Stars and Bars is comprised of men whose Confederate ancestor was a commissioned officer, who perhaps may have fit the description above. Perhaps he was a 21-year old 2nd Lt. like Davenport or an older General. I submit to you that, even though we have our many faults as men, in our blood flows the same sense of responsibility, patriotism, devotion to duty, and an unwavering regard for our ancestors who were willing to give their last full measure, even unto death. Thus, these officers, these men whose qualities and attributes we try vainly to emulate and whose memory we endeavor to honor as best we can - after all, we and they are only human - have yet given us an example of what makes the South and her people so unique among the rest of the world. They taught us how to be brave in danger - patient in trial - magnanimous in victory - undaunted in defeat. We are descended from the men who stood taller in defeat than their adversaries ever had in victory.

NEW HOME FOR A FLAG



This Battle Flag was donated to the Lawrence Sullivan Ross Chapter 184 from a family member of one of our members. It is hand stitched and one of the last Battle Flags to fly at the South Carolina State House.



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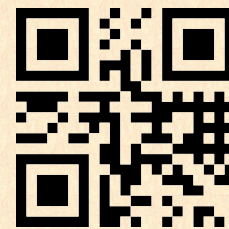
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(Cutoff for articles is 15th of the month)

